

Congressmen Secured \$1.3 Million for Upgrades

Kingston, NY -- Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today lauded the Pike Plan renovations in uptown Kingston for which he secured \$1.36 million in federal funds. The renovations included reconstruction of the portico along Wall Street and North Front Street. The city has also reconstructed sidewalks and curbs and installed new lights and plantings.

"The redevelopment of the Pike Plan is going to have positive benefits for area businesses that will see increased foot traffic as area residents and visitors rediscover Uptown Kingston," said Hinchey. "I secured \$1.3 million for the city to make these sorts of improvements, and the plan they put forward and executed has turned out marvelously. There were some hang ups along the way, but this project is great news for everyone who lives in Kingston or wants to visit Kingston. I'm so pleased with what has been accomplished."

In an attempt to improve the uptown area in the 1970's, a local architect designed and constructed a series of porticos rising above the sidewalks in Uptown Kingston. The design became known as the Pike Plan and has defined the architectural character of the district ever since. Over time, the porticos had fallen into disrepair and the commission responsible for its maintenance, the Pike Plan Commission (an incorporated Business Improvement District), undertook the now-completed restoration.

Hinchey had \$1.04 million for the Uptown Kingston rehabilitation project included in the Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (TEA-LU) measure that Congress passed several years ago. Those funds were subsequently cut by the Bush administration to \$860,000. Subsequent to that, the congressman obtained \$500,000 from the U.S. Department of Transportation for the project, bringing the total amount of federal funds to \$1.36 million.

Additionally, the Pike Plan Commission, working with the City of Kingston and Rural Ulster Preservation Company (RUPCO) was awarded a \$200,000 grant from the New York State Department of State's Main Streets program for portions of the redesign project.